

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark, Croatia, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2007 / 2023



Students from Vis Archipelago UGGp attending a guided tour at Papuk Geopark

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 27 staffs including 2 geoscientists

Number of visitors: 91.019 visitors considering number of the sold tickets. At the Eco point Jankovac 57.579 visitors, visitor centre “Geo Info Centre” 17.482 visitors, visitor centre “House of the Pannonian Sea” 6.235 visitors and at the Campsite/Adventure Park “Duboka” 9.723 visitors. There are numerous entrances to the Geopark without tickets, estimated number of visitors is 135.000

Number of Geopark events: 24

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 60

Number of Geopark press release: 19

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

- Following the successful completion of the INTERREG Danube GeoTour project, we launched the Danube GeoTour Plus project in 2024 together with eight other Geoparks. The project aims to further develop and expand the tourism products created within the original Danube GeoTour project. In doing so, it supports sustainable tourism in remote rural communities by equally engaging local residents and visitors through inclusive and innovative solutions.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in the 49th Coordination Committee Meeting, Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark, Turkey
- Participation in the 17th European Geoparks Conference, Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland
- Participation in the autumn EGN CC online meeting
- Participation in GGN revalidation missions carried out by Goran Radonić (Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark) and Goran Pavić (Maiella UNESCO Global Geopark)
- Contributions to the EGN Newsletter and the Geoparks Going Green publication
- Organisation of various events during the EGN Week
- Participation of the Papuk Geopark representatives in meetings of Croatian National Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks

Management and Financial Status

- Funding is secured by the Croatian Government; in addition, the Geopark generates its own income and obtains funding through projects
- The management structure is stable, with an increasing number of permanent employees.

Geoconservation

- Regularly maintenance of some geosites was carried out by geopark rangers
- Awareness-raising activities for the local community and visitors on the importance of geoconservation, implemented through guided tours; organisation of events with local schools to mark Geodiversity Day (6 October)

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- In cooperation with the Kutjevo Winemakers' Association, we prepared and published the brochure "Kutjevo Wine Region."
- In September, the 25th edition of the three-day event "Days of Croatian Forest" was held in Našice. During the programme, we presented the Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark to the visitors.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- In the Geoinfo Centre, with the support of NOAA's Science On a Sphere®—a unique educational tool that projects visualizations of planetary data onto a six-foot-diameter sphere—we developed a specialized workshop focused on natural disasters, particularly earthquakes

Strategic partnership

- Colleagues from the Vis Archipelago Geopark, along with students from the Komiža Primary School, completed a two-day visit to our geopark. During their stay, they put on a performance for the students of our local I.G. Kovačić Primary School in Velika. This initiative successfully established a partnership between schools from two Croatian geoparks and further solidified the excellent cooperation between our two organizations

Promotional activities

- During the annual Hallstatt Days festival, held every June in our Geopark, we presented our activities within the Interreg project Danube GeoTour Plus. One of the project's key components is the development and onsite interpretation of the archaeological site near Kaptol
- In January, as part of the event “Night of Museums,” we held a presentation of the publication “Speleological Features of the Slavonian Mountains” at the Museum of Slavonia in Osijek
- Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark was presented on national television in the first episode of the popular science series “Conversation with Rocks”. The series focuses on the geological structure of Croatia and the history of its development over hundreds of millions of years. Our Geopark had the honor of opening the five-episode series

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Goran Radonić, kontakt@pp-papuk.hr

Geologist: Goran Pavić, goran_pavic@yahoo.com